



Spring 2023 News Update



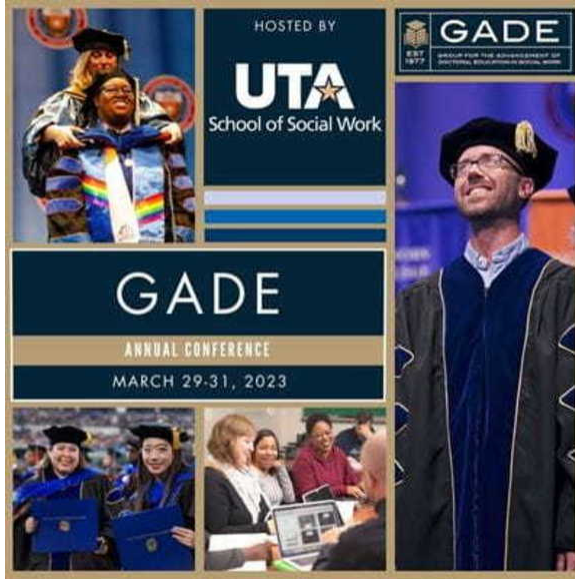
Watch the [April 2023 Monthly Video News Update](#) and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

SSW to host national conference of PhD directors

By Valerie Fields Hill

The UTA School of Social Work, with its top-ranked graduate program, is hosting a



GADE Annual Conference Flyer

conference for university doctoral program directors from Social Work schools across the country.

The Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work's annual conference brings together directors from Fordham's Graduate School of Social Work, the Crown Family School of Social Work at the University of Chicago, Loyola University School of Social Work and many other programs in the United States.

Representatives from the industry organization the Council on Social Work Education, which influences curriculum and determines accreditation for the nation's Social Work

schools will also attend this week's conference.

In all, more than 75 scholars will gathered Wednesday, March 29, through Friday, March 31, at the Arlington Hilton and on UTA's campus to discuss the challenges facing Social Work instructors and teachers as they try to forge a path forward on an increasingly complex American political landscape.

This year's event was the first in-person gathering since members met three years ago in Los Angeles. The group met virtually in 2021 and in 2022.

Read the rest of the story [National Conference of PHD Directors](#)

AI can be useful in classroom, UTA Social Work professor says

By Valerie Fields Hill

ChatGPT, the new artificial intelligence chatbot that can do everything from write sophisticated literary essays to create complex blocks of computer code in mere seconds, has many academics up in



Social Work Assistant Professor of Practice Karen Magruder, LCSW-S

arms.

Karen Magruder is not one of them.

“As an educator, one of my first thoughts was surrounding implications for plagiarism and academic integrity,” said Magruder, a School of Social Work assistant professor of practice, echoing many scholars’ concerns across the globe.

Then, Magruder tried out the platform that created ChatGPT. She quickly changed her mind.

Instead of viewing the tool as a threat to academic honesty, she saw potential for its functionality as a “digital muse” and quickly found a way to incorporate it in student learning.

“As a Social Work educator and Social Worker, we strive to use a strengths-based perspective with our clients and students,” she said. “And I wanted to apply that here to the new technology as well.”

Read the rest of the story [AI Can Be Useful in The Classroom](#)



'Black Resistance' highlighted in Black History Month theme for 2023

By Dean Scott Ryan

In its preamble, the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2021) states “the primary mission of the Social Work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.”

The preamble emphasizes that Social Workers must promote social justice and social change on behalf of clients (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities). To successfully promote social justice and social change, Social Workers must inherently practice resistance.

This resistance can be in the form of fighting against oppressive laws and policies, fighting against discrimination, economic, and racial inequality, fighting against institutions and organizations causing injustices such as law enforcement with police misconduct, an ineffective criminal justice system, and failing schools.

This type of resistance is what the Association for the Study of African American Life and History

meant when they selected the theme for Black History Month 2023 to be “Black Resistance”, according to [ASALH's website](#).

Read the rest of the story

['Black Resistance' Highlighted in Black History Month Theme For 2023](#)

SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS

Dean's Statement on Social Work Month

By Dean Scott Ryan

March is Social Work Month, a time we dedicate to recognizing the impact our profession makes in Texas, across the nation and internationally.

Social Work Breaks Barriers is the theme for 2023.

For sure, our profession tears down obstacles. On Friday, March 3, hundreds of social work professionals, and students gathered in Austin for Social Work Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. They discussed with members of the 88th Legislature strategies to remove obstacles preventing individuals, families, and communities from living their best lives.

Specifically, attendees educated lawmakers about the need to support legislation defining the services of school Social Workers and requiring districts to hire them.

The Texas Education Code should distinguish Social Work duties from those of campus counselors who, most often, schedule students' classes and offer career information.

The Texas branch of the National Association of Social Workers called for the passage of House Bill 226 and Senate Bill 253 in the 87th Legislature in 2021. Lawmakers declined to do so. Therefore, the bills are being reintroduced this legislative session to help protect children in schools.

Read the rest of the Dean's statement on [Social Work Month](#).

Dean's Statement on

Women's History Month 2023

By Dean Scott Ryan

Millennials born between 1981-1996 and Generation Zers born 1997-2012 have lived with very different public images of women than their parents' or grandparents' generations: There is a woman vice president of the United States, an outgoing woman speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a Congress comprised of the greatest number of women in American history.



These are notable political gains by women over the last couple of decades. It remains to be studied, however, whether these historic achievements by women are sustainable. It's all about the money.

"Few studies of gender and elections focus on money in politics," said Professor Kira Sanbonmatsu, a senior scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers-New Brunswick. "Without resources, it's hard to wage a successful campaign."

A lack of resources may deter some women from seeking elective office. "Women may not even enter a race in the first place," Professor Sanbonmatsu said in a news release marking Women's History Month. Further, "political gatekeepers may be less likely to get behind potential women candidates unless they are perceived as strong fundraisers," she said.

Such being the case, the professor argues women's voices in politics have yet to be fully realized. Her work is precisely the kind of study often highlighted during Women's History Month. If it was released during any other month, the study might have been lost in the news shuffle.

Read the rest of the Dean's statement on [Women's History Month](#).



Social Work Assistant Professor, Danielle Harrell, PhD, LCSW

Social Work researchers present research at national conference

By Valerie Fields Hill

Nearly 30 UTA professors presented ground-breaking research on social, cultural, educational, and racial issues in the United States and internationally at a leading industry conference in January.

UTA Social Work professors were among the top researchers who released such studies at the Society for Social Work and Research's 27th Annual Conference. The event was held Jan. 11-15 at the Sheraton Downtown Phoenix Hotel in Phoenix, Ariz.

The Society for Social Work and Research is a 29-year-old membership organization for Social Workers, social welfare professionals, and Social Work students, faculty, and researchers.

It convenes annually to review and share research on pressing social issues around the globe. This year's conference focused on "Social Work Science and Complex Problems: Battling Inequities and Building Solutions."

Read the rest of the story: [Social Work Researchers Present Studies at National Conference](#)

Follow us on Social Media



Click Button to Access Previous Monthly Video News Updates

Click Button to Access Previous SSW Newsletters

211 South Cooper St. Box 19129 Arlington, TX 76019
Telephone: 866-272-3181 Fax: 817-272-3939



emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.